

MEMORIAL

OF THE

YEARLY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IN PHILADELPHIA,

Praying Congress to adopt a pacific and benevolent policy towards the Indian tribes.

APRIL 24, 1838.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

The memorial of the yearly meeting of the religious society of Friends, held in Philadelphia,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :

That your memorialists have, with deep concern, observed the war now waged against the Indians in Florida, and the means that are in operation to remove them from their native homes and from the graves of their fathers.

On behalf of these Indians, we most earnestly and respectfully appeal to the rulers of our beloved and common country. We ask them to stretch forth an arm of power to arrest the career of oppression, and stay the effusion of blood.

We have remembered, with feelings of gratitude, the kindness and hospitality of the aborigines to our forefathers. When they first set their feet on these shores, they were few in number, and very feeble ; the owners of the soil were then strong and numerous, possessing, in the forests and in the rivers, an abundant supply for all their wants.

When our predecessors were hungry, the Indian fed them, when they were thirsty, he gave them drink, and extended to them that solace and protection, which had been denied them by the more enlightened inhabitants of their native land. Since that period the white people have become rich and powerful, while the red men have been greatly diminished, and are now, comparatively, weak and poor. Of the remnant yet surviving, many see and feel the necessity of depending upon agriculture instead of the chase, and have already made considerable progress in the arts of civilized life.

Against their removal to the distant west, a large body of the Cherokees have made to our Government a powerful and affecting appeal, calculated to call forth the tenderest sympathies of our nature.

We hope our rulers may bear in mind the generous benevolence of the Indian towards the white men in the day of their weakness and distress ; and not overlook the obligations of gratitude and justice.

And may the Great Ruler of the universe dispose the National Legislature patiently to listen to the cry of the poor, and promptly to remedy his wrongs. So may the blessing of heaven rest upon our land, and the day of our country's prosperity be greatly prolonged.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Signed by direction and on behalf of the said yearly meeting, held in Philadelphia, for parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, by adjournments from the 9th day of the fourth month, to the 14th of the same, inclusive, 1838.

BENJ. PRICE, JR.,
DEBORAH F. WHARTON.